5/29/69

Dear Harold,

I'm sorry it's taken me so long to write back, but it seems like everything happens at once. I hope you aren't too busy when you sit down to read this, because there's a lot.

First to answer your letter of 5/16:
I got some more information on Vallee. The probation officer who wrote the letter releasing him from supervision is still at the Adult Probation Department, his name is Vincent Masi. I spoke with him the other day. It turns xxxx out there's another report down there that I didn't know about. It's the report of the first probation officer who interviewed Vallee when he reported in. Masi read the report to me over the phone, but my contact there says he won't be able to get me a copy of it, because it would be immediately traceable to him. The interviewing probation officer asked Vallee about events xxxxxxx surrounding his arrest. Vallee said that he was stopped by the police, they searched his car, found his rifle and ammunition, and he was taken to the Damen Avenue station. At the Damen Avenue station he said that he made some derogatory remarks about President Kennedy, which made the officers more suspicious of him. Those are almost direct quotes from the report. So much for the lie that he didn't have a gun in his possession. So on the arrest report "M 1" was purposefully put in the wrong place -- or the original report was removed and an altered one substituted. Now, in relation to the charges: I was told that it was unusual for a defendant in this type of crime to receive supervision. Supervision is lower than probation. Under supervision, the subject only reports his actions once a month, and can do so by mail if he wants to. They said, as I've been told before, that the supervision clearly indicates some kind of deal with federal authorities, or someone wielding strong influence in his behalf. He also told the interviewing officer that he had previously been living at 21 Bond Lane, Hicksville, New York. You may recall that one of the references he gave was Sam Herman at that same address. The car had NY plates on it, and was returned to the owner after the arrest -- if the car was Herman's, and if Herman had come from New York with him, what would they have come to Chicago together for? I would suggest that you look for a Sam Herman in information about the radical right. I hope to be able to get the name of the interviewing probation officer. I was told that he's no longer working there -- but I may be able to get his name and some information on where he might be.

You never mentioned what happened with the Black literary agent.

I haven't had a chance to talk to DeZutter yet, but maybe I can next week.

My remarks about the writing in COUP relate to something I've been thinking about for a while. I've always been greatly interested in ~~Emil~~ Emiliano Zapata and Pancho Villa; I regard Zapata as one of the most exemplary leaders in history. So I was very pleased a couple weeks ago when I got the new book "Zapata and the Mexican Revolution." Well, I still haven't gotten past the second chapter.